

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/721,621

Examiner

Mark Blouin

Applicant(s)

KANADA ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/6/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-16 (renumbered 1-15).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed March 6, 2007 was applied to the following effect: Claims 1-4,6,7, and 9-16 were amended, and Claim 8 was cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-7 and 9-16 (renumbered as 1-15) are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. This application is for a disk drive latching mechanism. The prior art does not teach nor reasonably suggest, as recited in newly amended claim 1, a latching mechanism having a first end for securely holding the moving member in place, and a second end having a pair of arms and a groove formed between the pair of arms; and a switching mechanism for switching the latching mechanism between an operative state and an inoperative state, the switching mechanism having a flat projection that locates in the groove to engage and retain the latching mechanism in the inoperative state.

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 1 are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. This application is for a disk drive latching mechanism. The prior art does not teach nor reasonably suggest, as recited in newly amended claim 6, a latch locking mechanism for locking the latching mechanism when the read/write head is at the read/write position, the latch locking mechanism having an iron element secured thereto for magnetically attracting and moving the latch locking mechanism toward a magnet on the moving member.

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 6 are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. This application is for a disk drive latching mechanism. The prior art does not teach nor reasonably suggest, as recited in newly amended claim 13, stopper member comprising a support member attached to a base, a shaft axially slidable relative to the support member, a stopper attached to the shaft adjacent the moving member, and a biasing member on the shaft between the support member and the stopper for biasing the stopper toward the moving member.

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 13 are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

6. The closest prior art is Matsumura (USPN 6,028,746) shows a latching mechanism, but does not show any of the features described, *supra*, including a first end for securely holding the moving member in place, and a second end having a pair of arms and a groove formed between the pair of arms; and a switching mechanism for switching the latching mechanism between an operative state and an inoperative state, the switching mechanism having a flat projection that locates in the groove to engage and retain the latching mechanism in the inoperative state.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen, can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2627
March 13, 2006



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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3/16/06